

Minutes
**Labor-Management Advisory Council on
Workers' Compensation**

January 13, 2009

4:00 pm

Advisory council members present: Lt. Governor John Bohlinger, Jerry Keck, Don Judge, Doug Buman, Jason Miller, Dan Lee, Don Judge, Riley Johnson, Annette Hoffman, Bob Worthington

Core team members present: Jerry Keck, George Kochman, Diana Ferriter, Judy Bovington, Anne Wolfinger

Others present: Carl Kochman, Montana State Fund; Larry Jones, Liberty Northwest; Marv Jordan, MCCF; Tim Fitzpatrick, Montana School Boards Association; Rhonda Van Meter, Amy Salle, Corvel; Mike Marsh, Midland Claims; Jon Bennion, Montana Chamber of Commerce, Bonnie Lyytinen-Hale, Headwaters Rehabilitation; Wade Wilkison, Bruce Chamberlain, Jeanne Johns, Employment Relations Division.

I. Continued Discussion of Proposed LMAC Bill, LC 1442

Lt. Governor Bohlinger reported he discussed the proposed WorkSafeMT funding mechanism in LC 1442 with Governor Schweitzer and it was decided that the fee increase would be considered a tax increase and therefore contrary to the Governor's promise of no new taxes or tax increases. After further discussion, Don Judge moved and Riley Johnson seconded a motion that LC 1442 be revised by removing the WorkSafeMT funding provision. Motion carried unanimously.

The council discussed alternative methods of funding, in particular if any options existed within the current 3% assessment funding. Jerry Keck explained the mechanism and limitations of the current funding and noted it would require a budget amendment through the House appropriations committee. The council discussed the difficulty of promoting funding for WorkSafeMT when the WorkSafeMT board had not yet completed, or started, its strategic planning process.

Riley Johnson moved and Bob Worthington seconded that WorkSafeMT move forward without further funding considerations, making every effort to engage those interested in funding the program, raising money through volunteer efforts, and targeting the areas of frequently occurring injuries. Riley John requested that WorkSafeMT include research in their strategic planning process. Motion carried unanimously.

II. Public Comment

Mike Marsh and Carl Kochman addressed the council. George Kochman, WorkSafeMT director, announced the hiring of a webmaster. In addition, other members of the public participated during the course of the discussions.

III. Next Steps

Next meeting: LMAC teleconference, Friday, January 19, 1:15p

